

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. – 3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for sucking a function liquid droplet ejection head having a plurality of nozzles ejecting a function liquid, said apparatus comprising:

~~in which a cap adapted to be is brought into close contact with the function liquid droplet ejection head; having a plurality of nozzles, said head ejecting a functional liquid, said sucking being made through the cap, said apparatus comprising:~~

an ejector in fluid-flow communication with the cap, the ejector having a negative pressure sucking ~~which sucks all of said nozzles of the function liquid droplet ejection head through the cap in a state of being in fluid-flow communication with the cap; and~~

a working fluid source supply means for supplying the ejector with a flow of working fluid to create the negative pressure.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 4, further comprising:

pressure detection means for detecting a pressure in a suction pipeline connecting the cap to a suction port of the ejector;

a flow rate regulating valve for regulating a flow rate of the working fluid supplied to the ejector, said valve being interposed in a working fluid supply pipeline connecting the working fluid supply means source to a supply port of the ejector; and

first control means for controlling the flow rate regulating valve based on a detection result obtained by the pressure detection means.

7. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the first control means gradually closes the flow rate regulating valve when suction of the function liquid droplet ejection head is finished.

8. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 6, further comprising:
a suction pipeline gate valve which is interposed in the suction pipeline and which opens/closes the suction pipeline,
wherein the first control means closes the flow rate regulating valve and the suction pipeline gate valve when the suction of the function liquid droplet ejection head is finished.

9. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 8,
wherein the suction pipeline gate valve ~~is made of~~ includes a three-way valve having an atmosphere releasing port, and
wherein the first control means opens the atmosphere releasing port simultaneously with closing of the suction pipeline gate valve and opens the flow rate regulating valve again.

10. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 4, further comprising:

a storage tank which stores a function liquid in advance and is connected to a discharge port of the ejector by a discharge pipeline,

wherein the working fluid supply ~~means~~ source includes ~~is made up of~~ a pump and is connected to the storage tank through a circulating pipeline to supply the function liquid as ~~a~~ the working fluid.

11. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 10,

wherein a circulating pipeline gate valve ~~made up of~~ including a three-way valve having an atmosphere releasing port is interposed in the circulating pipeline connecting the working fluid supply ~~means~~ source to the storage tank, and

wherein the apparatus further comprises second control means for closing the circulating pipeline gate valve and opening the atmosphere releasing port of the circulating pipeline gate valve when suction of the function liquid droplet ejection head is finished.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently Amended) A liquid droplet ejection apparatus, comprising:

~~a suction apparatus for a function liquid droplet ejection head; in which~~

a cap adapted to be ~~is brought into close contact with the function liquid droplet ejection head; which ejects a function liquid and suction provided through the cap, said suction apparatus comprising:~~

a plurality of nozzles provided in the function liquid droplet ejection head;

an ejector in fluid-flow communication with the cap, the ejector having a negative pressure sucking that sucks all the nozzles through the cap of the function liquid droplet ejection head in a state of being in fluid-flow communication with the cap;
and

a working fluid supply source means for supplying the ejector with a flow of working fluid to create the negative pressure;

wherein the function liquid droplet ejection head ejects ~~heads-eject~~ a function liquid onto a workpiece.

14. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing an electrooptic device using with the liquid droplet ejection apparatus according to Claim 13, wherein a film formation part is formed on a workpiece by a the function liquid.

15. (Currently Amended) An electrooptic device manufactured using with the liquid droplet ejection apparatus of Claim 13, wherein a film formation part is formed on the workpiece by the function liquid.

16. (Previously Presented) The electrooptic device of Claim 15, wherein the electrooptic device is mounted to an electronic equipment.

17. (New) The apparatus of Claim 4, wherein the ejector includes:
a supply port receiving the flow of working fluid from the working fluid source;
a suction port communicating with the supply port and sucking the function liquid therein due to the negative pressure created by the flow of the working fluid; and

a discharge port communicating with the supply port and the suction port, the discharge port discharging the working fluid from the supply port and the function liquid from the suction port.

18. (New) The apparatus of Claim 4, wherein the ejector is free of moving parts.

19. (New) The apparatus of Claim 13, wherein the ejector includes:
a supply port receiving the flow of working fluid from the working fluid source;
a suction port communicating with the supply port and sucking the function liquid therein due to the negative pressure created by the flow of the working fluid; and
a discharge port communicating with the supply port and the suction port, the discharge port discharging the working fluid from the supply port and the function liquid from the suction port.

20. (New) The apparatus of Claim 13, wherein the ejector is free of moving parts.